

New Rules in Place for Water Conservation



In December 2008, the City Council, in its role as the Carlsbad Municipal Water District board of directors, enacted an updated drought response ordinance due to possible water shortages throughout Southern California in 2009.

The San Diego region is currently in a “level one” drought emergency. Under the new rules, level one calls for voluntary water conservation with the goal of reducing water use by 10 percent. If the water situation gets worse, as is expected, a level two emergency could be declared. At level two, the board will have the option of making certain water conservation measures mandatory.

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Water agencies throughout San Diego County are enacting similar measures, based on severe drought conditions affecting Northern California and the Colorado River basin, where most of our local water supply originates. In future years, additional water supplies are expected to become available, as new technologies such as the planned Carlsbad desalination plant come on line, and water recycling efforts are expanded.

Following is a summary of the key provisions of the new ordinance. To see the complete ordinance, please visit the City Web site at www.carlsbad.ca.gov.

Four levels of drought response

The ordinance contains four levels of response, depending on the severity of the water shortage. In addition, a number of conservation measures will be in force at all times. They include:

- No wash down of paved surfaces, unless necessary for safety or sanitation.
- Stop water waste from inefficient landscape irrigation, and repair any water leaks as soon as possible.
- Wash vehicles with a bucket and hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle.
- Serve water in restaurants only on request.
- Offer hotel guests the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.

Level 1 - Drought Watch (Voluntary, 10 percent reduction in water use)

- Irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only.
- Repair all water leaks within five days of notification by the water district.



Water served in restaurants only on request.

Level 2 - Drought Alert (Mandatory, 20 percent reduction in water use)

- Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than three days per week on a schedule set by the water district. From November through May, landscape irrigation is limited to no more than once per week. This rule does not apply to commercial growers or nurseries.
- Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation using sprinklers to no more than ten minutes per day.
- Repair all leaks within 72 hours of notification by the water district.

Level 3 - Drought Critical (Mandatory, up to 30 percent reduction in water use)

- Limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than two assigned days per week.
- Stop filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds, except to the extent needed to sustain aquatic life.
- Stop washing vehicles except at commercial car washes that re-circulate water, or by high pressure/low volume wash systems.
- Repair all leaks within 48 hours of notification by the water district.
- No new potable water service shall be provided and no new temporary or permanent meters will be installed, with certain exceptions included in the ordinance.
- The City Council, sitting as the water district board, may establish mandatory limits on water use by homes and businesses. A penalty can be assessed for water use above the home or business's water allocation.



Level 4 - Drought Emergency (Mandatory, more than 40 percent reduction in water use)

- Stop all landscape irrigation, except crops and landscape products of commercial growers and nurseries.
- Repair all water leaks within 24 hours of notification by the water district.
- The water district may install a flow restricting device at homes or businesses where the customer has repeatedly violated the provisions of the drought response ordinance.
- Tampering with or removing a flow restriction device may result in termination of service for a period determined by the water district.
- Water-use limits may be established for residential and commercial customers, with penalties for water use in excess of the limits.



More Information

For more information about the updated drought-response water conservation program, contact the Carlsbad Municipal Water District at **(760) 438-2722**.

For information about water conservation measures for your home or business, including rebates for appliances and equipment that conserve water, visit **www.20gallonchallenge.com**.

